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General and complete disarmament

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Peru Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay: revised draft resolution

Illicit traffic in small arms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 G on the Illicit Circulation of Small Arms and its resolution 51/45 F on Measures to Curb the Illicit Transfer and Use of Conventional Weapons,

Bearing in mind its resolution 52/38 J on Small Arms,

Expressing its appreciation for the Secretary-General's Reports in pursuance of resolution 51/45 F on Measures to Curb the Illicit Transfer and Use of Conventional Weapons (A/52/229) and resolution 52/38 C on Assistance to States for Curbing the Illicit traffic in Small Arms (A/53/207),

Expressing also its appreciation for the Secretary-General's Report of 13 April 1998 on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa, and in this context takes note of the ongoing consideration by the Security Council of the issue on illicit arms flows to and in Africa,

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Welcoming the initiatives by member States of the ECOWAS to conclude their agreement on a moratorium on the manufacture, import and export of small arms and light weapons,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials,

Welcoming the decision on the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons taken at the 34th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held in Burkina Faso during June 1998,

Welcoming also the adoption of the European Union programme for preventing and combating illicit trafficking in conventional arms and the initiatives undertaken in its implementation,

Stressing the importance of ongoing efforts to elaborate an international convention against transnational organized crime, including a protocol to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in the framework of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's announcement on 14 August 1998 designating the Department for Disarmament Affairs as the focal point to coordinate all action on small arms within the United Nations system,

Underlining the importance of increased cooperation both among the relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, and within the United Nations Secretariat, in particular with regard to the activities of the Centre on International Crime Prevention, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA), in ongoing initiatives related to illicit trafficking in small arms,

Recognizing the human suffering caused by illicit trafficking in small arms and that Governments bear the responsibility to intensify their efforts by developing an understanding of the issues and practical ways of addressing the problem,

Bearing in mind the interface between violence, criminality, drug trafficking, terrorism and illicit trafficking in small arms,

1. *Decides* to request the Secretary-General to hold broad-based consultations, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, taking into account the ongoing work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, with all Member States, interested regional and subregional organizations, international agencies, and experts in the field on:

(a) The magnitude and scope of the phenomenon of illicit trafficking in small arms;

(b) Possible measures to combat illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms, including those suited to indigenous regional approaches; and

(c) The role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of his consultations;

3. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so to provide the necessary assistance, bilaterally, regionally and through multilateral channels, such as the United Nations, in

support of the implementation of measures associated with combating illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Illicit traffic in small arms".